GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Production and Import of Rubber
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the total quantum of natural rubber produced and imported in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

b) whether there is a consistent drop in the production of natural rubber during the said period and if so, the details thereof, year-wise along with the reasons therefor;

c) whether a new rubber policy has been formulated by the Government and if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to help rubber growers in the country; and

d) the steps taken by the Government to boost rubber production in the country and address the problems faced by rubber growers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) The production and import of rubber in the country during the last three years and current year is as under:

Year	Production (tonnes)	Import (tonnes)
2012-13	913700	262753
2013-14	774000	360263
2014-15	645000	442130
2015-16 (April-October)	329000	252587

(b) Domestic production of NR in 2013-14 was low due to adverse weather conditions, incidence of leaf diseases and low rubber prices. NR production in 2014-15 and current year is low mainly due to low rubber prices.

(c) The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee on 16 June 2014 to examine issues related to rubber production, development, consumption and exports and suggest a National Policy on Rubber in the interest of both the growers as well as consumers. The Expert Committee consisted of experts and stakeholders of rubber industry including representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments of Kerala and Tripura, Rubber Board, Associations of NR growers, Associations of rubber based industries including manufacturers of tyres, latex, block rubber, synthetic rubber and academic & research oriented institutions in the government and the non-governmental sector. The final draft of the Policy has been received from the Committee.

(d) Several programmes covering research, extension and provision of financial assistance are being implemented during 12th Five Year Plan to increase rubber production through new planting, replanting of uneconomic plantations and productivity enhancement. The scale of financial assistance for new planting and replanting is as follows:-

Region	Planting subsidy in 12th Plan
Traditional region	Rs. 25,000 per ha
Non-traditional region other than NE	Rs.35,000 per ha (planting subsidy - Rs.30000, reimbursement of cost of planting material- Rs.5000)
NE region	Rs.35,000 per ha (planting subsidy - Rs.30000, reimbursement of cost of planting material- Rs.5000)

Other steps taken to regulate import and promote export of NR are the following.

? DGFT reduced the export obligation period to six months for NR from the date of clearance of each consignment under Advance Authorisation/DFIA Schemes in January 2015.

? Import duty on dry forms of NR was raised from "20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower" to "25% or Rs 30 a kg whichever is lower" with effect from 30 April 2015.

? Added RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheet) and TSR (Technically Specified Rubber) is included in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which makes them eligible for an incentive at the rate of two per cent for exports vide DGFT Public Notice No. 44/2015-20 dtd. 29 October 2015.
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